



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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Oct. 28, 2004

## PARSONS MAN WHO SOLD 2-3 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA A DAY PLEADS GUILTY

KANSAS CITY, KAN. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Tremayne Darkis**, 31, Parsons, Kan., has pleaded guilty to drug charges.

Darkis pleaded guilty Oct. 25, 2004 before U.S. District Judge G. Thomas Van Bebber to **one count of conspiracy to distribute 100 kilograms (220.5 pounds) of marijuana and one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.**

In his plea, Darkis admitted that from Oct. 1, 2003 through Feb. 20, 2004, he and others conspired to distribute 100 kilograms of marijuana in Parsons, Kan. On Oct. 23, 2003, Darkis went to a park in Parsons and met a person who was cooperating with investigators. Darkis offered to sell the buyer a minimum of a quarter pound of marijuana for \$200. Later that day, the cooperating individual took delivery of the marijuana from a woman who was working with Darkis.

In his plea, Darkis also admitted that on Jan. 1, 2004 he was stopped by a Kansas Highway Patrol officer for speeding on U.S. Highway 400 in Labette County, Kan. The smell of marijuana caused officers to search Darkis' car and to seize \$3,729 in cash and more than 26 grams of marijuana. While serving a search warrant at Darkis' apartment in Parsons, investigators discovered two loaded handguns and 1,170.22 grams of marijuana. During the investigation, officers obtained information indicating Darkis commonly had two to three pounds of marijuana in his apartment and routinely sold two to three pounds of marijuana each day. Over a 90-day period, that would equal approximately 100 kilograms of marijuana.

Sentencing is set for 3 p.m. Jan. 10, 2005 before Judge VanBebber. Darkis faces a

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maximum penalty of not less than five years and not more than 40 years in prison, and a \$2 million fine, on the conspiracy count; and not less than five years and not more than life in prison, consecutive to any other sentence, and a \$250,000 fine, on the firearms charge.

Melgren commended the work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the Kansas Highway Patrol, the Parsons Police Department, the Labette County Sheriff's Office and the Labette County Attorney's Office, all of which were involved in the investigation, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Scott Rask, who prosecuted the case.